


FROM the LAND



The Connecticut River Program: A Success from Source to Sea

ONCE AGAIN WE HAVE SOMETHING BIG TO CELEBRATE, you and I, especially all of you who supported the Conservancy's Connecticut River Protection Program. It's a success beyond anything we hoped when the Conservancy's Eastern Region launched the program in 1986.

You'll recall that our goal, five years ago, was to save the 100 most critical natural areas along the river, a total of 7,000 acres that would cost \$10.5 million to protect. There was the usual competition for the land, so we felt we must move fast—finishing the job by 1991.

Well, it's done! We have the money, many acres on the principal target sites have been protected, and others are still being brought in. It's a credit to the Connecticut Chapter that our staff and board of trustees originated the program, in which Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont cooperated. We set ourselves a state fund-raising goal of \$4 million—by far the largest for any project in Chapter history.

Each time we raise the size of a land acquisition project goal to a whole new plateau, our knees knock a bit. Trustees and staff bite their nails. But each time you, the Chapter members, come through in a way that's always gratifying—even electrifying!

This time, Connecticut raised \$5,936,823. We protected 772 acres at 16 river sites. There were gifts of land, conservation easements, outright purchases, and voluntary protection agreements. The Chapter also added 910 acres of land in the Connecticut River region to the Natural Heritage Registry Program.

The sites were selected to preserve the biological diversity of the river—priceless rare plant communities, floodplain forests, tidal and freshwater wetlands, and more.

Meanwhile, Conservancy offices in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont saved thousands of acres in the river's wildest areas, such as Fourth Connecticut Lake, where the river begins, and Norton Pool in New Hampshire, a virgin forest and wetland where moose and black bear roam.

Perhaps the most exciting result of the Connecticut River Program

has been the new discoveries scientific staff in Conservancy field offices are making. Over the 407 miles of its length and on its 23 tributaries, the river has revealed to us some of its secrets. There are even more biologically critical and esthetically beautiful lands than we suspected when we began. We now know that there is much more to do—but that's another story, to be told another time. For now, celebrate another great achievement—your achievement—in preserving our natural heritage.



I have had the honor of being chairman of the Connecticut River Protection Program over these past five years. It's my privilege to offer heartfelt thanks and congratulations to all of you, Chapter members, special program donors, trustees and Chairman Bob Schneider, staff and Director Les Corey, Conservancy people from the other river states and the Eastern Region—I've learned there's nothing you can't do, and I can't wait to see what you come up with next!

—ALEXANDER GARDNER,
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE FOR THE CONNECTICUT RIVER

Land Protection Highlights of the Connecticut River Protection Program

THE CONNECTICUT CHAPTER was able to play an important role in the four-state Connecticut River Protection Program thanks to its many friends who recognized the importance of this effort.

In the area of land preservation, the Nature Conservancy's primary goal, the Connecticut River Protection Program was a highly productive and successful endeavor for the Chapter.

Since the beginning of the program in 1986, the Chapter protected 772 acres at 16 sites. These land protection projects had a total fair market value in excess of \$4.4 million. With completion of these projects, the Chapter has protected or assisted in protecting, through acquisition, easement, or registry, more than 2,000 acres on the river and its watershed.

Although some of the properties listed here do not abut the river, they are part of its watershed, and are therefore integral to its ecology. Several major acquisitions are pending; look for more information in the months ahead.

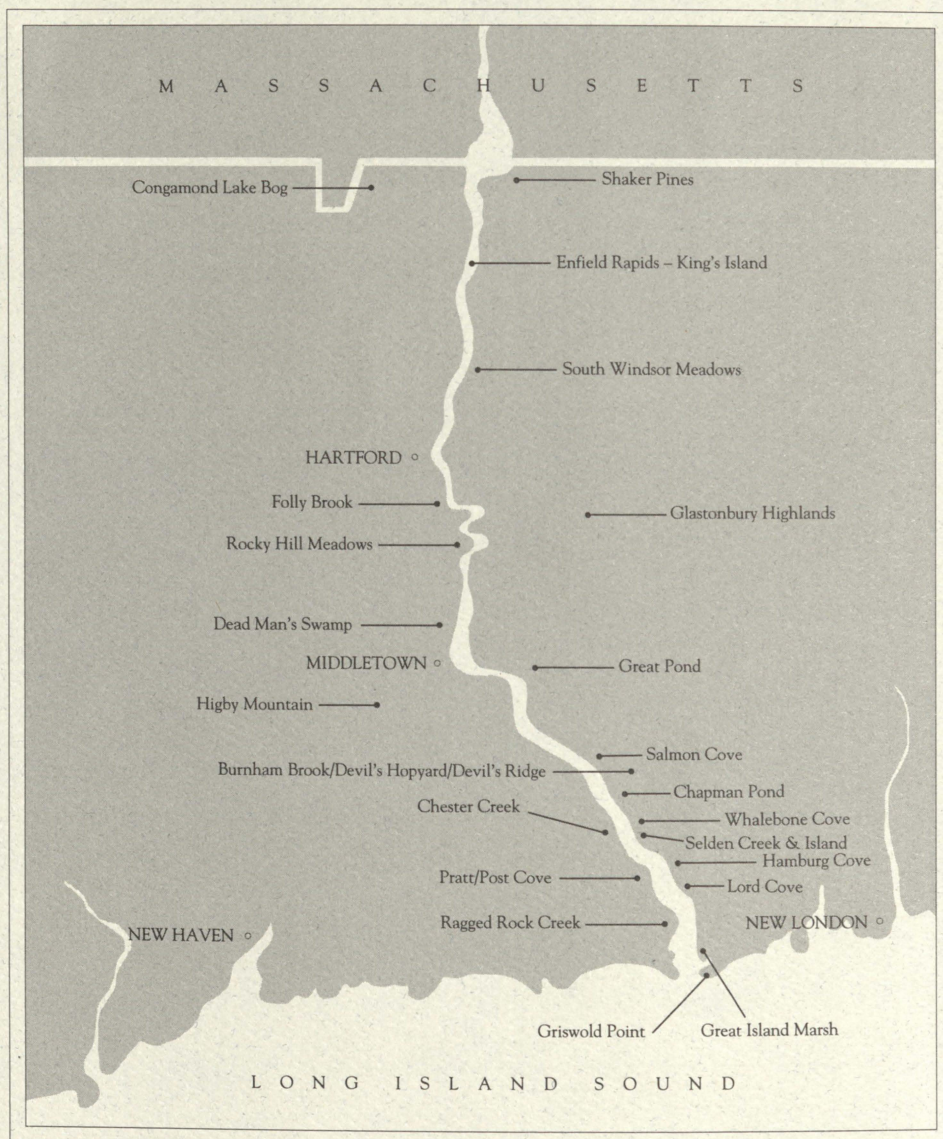
1986...

On the last day of the year, the Chapter closes on the \$400,000 purchase of 55 acres on SELDEN CREEK in Lyme, one of the most undisturbed and biologically significant fresh water tidal marshes in the Connecticut River estuary. The Connecticut River Gateway Commission later issued a \$50,000 challenge grant to help pay for this property. An adjoining 46 acres is protected through a conservation easement donated by owner Ferdinand Coudert of Lyme.

The Connecticut River Gateway Commission purchases 35 acres on the SALMON RIVER COVE in East Haddam, with assistance from Chapter staff.



Cover Photograph: Lord Cove from above.



1987...

Marion Snow of Meriden donates the 37 acres adjacent to the Chapter's HIGBY MOUNTAIN Preserve in Middlefield and Middletown, increasing the size of the preserve to 159 acres.

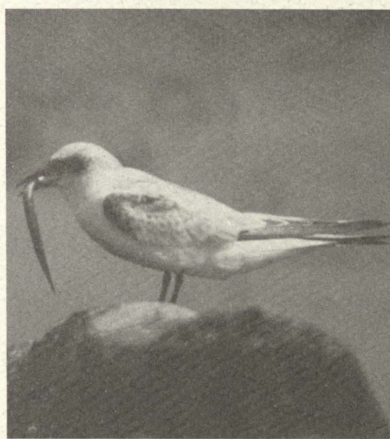
DEVIL'S RIDGE, 44 acres of dense hemlock hardwood forest south of Devil's Hopyard State Park, is protected through a joint effort with the state Department of Environmental Protection and the East Haddam Land Trust.

1988...

Mrs. Philip Schwartz of Hadlyme donates two parcels of tidal marsh totalling 25 acres in WHALEBONE COVE to the Chapter.

The Clayton Clark family donates a parcel of land on GREAT ISLAND in Old Lyme at the mouth of the river, adding to the Chapter's holdings there.

At the request of the state Department of Environmental Protection, the Chapter purchases 11 acres of woods and ledge outcrops in East Haddam, adjacent to DEVIL'S HOPYARD STATE PARK.



Clayton Taylor

▲ Above: Perched on a rock on Griswold Point in Old Lyme, a juvenile least tern holds the day's catch in its bill.

1989. . . The Chapter and the State Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program purchase GLASTONBURY HIGHLANDS, 120 acres in the center of 3,000 contiguous acres in the town's last wilderness area.

The City of Hartford and the Chapter sign a 50-year term conservation easement protecting 88 acres of critical flood plain forest at FOLLY BROOK in Wethersfield. The state Department of Environmental Protection, the Connecticut Fund for the Environment, and Riverfront Recapture all support this measure.

The Chapter acquires 5.9 acres at RAGGED ROCK CREEK MARSH in Old Saybrook, a 300-acre salt marsh already partially owned by the state, from Charlotte Saunders and Robert Saunders.

A 3.2-acre conservation easement at GRISWOLD POINT is granted to the Chapter from the Griswold family.

A critical three-acre parcel on SELDEN ISLAND in Lyme is acquired, across from the Selden Creek Preserve created in 1986.

The Chapter receives a donation of 19 acres at CHAPMAN POND in East Haddam from Philip Johnston, expanding its existing preserve.

1990. . .

The Chapter closes on an additional 47 acres in the GLASTONBURY HIGHLANDS preserve. Kongscut Land Trust and the town of Glastonbury play key roles in this project.

The Chapter's first preserve in the town of Chester is established with the purchase of 11 acres of marshland habitat in CHESTER CREEK.

Critical bald eagle habitat is protected at ENFIELD RAPIDS as a result of an 11.6-acre gift by Mascor Builders at the Eagle Watch subdivision in Suffield. An additional conservation easement on the rear of six building lots in the subdivision adds buffer protection to this habitat, which is so important for wintering bald eagles.

HAMBURG COVE in Lyme is the site of a gift of 46.5 acres from the late John A. Bross of McLean, Virginia. Connecticut River Gateway Commission holds the development rights to the property through a conservation easement donated by Bross to the state in 1981.

Jane and Endicott Davison of Lyme deed four separate parcels of marshland on LORD COVE to the Connecticut Chapter at the end of 1990. The gift brings the Conservancy's holdings at Lord Cove to 208 acres, all of it representing valuable habitat that has been protected piece by piece, through gifts of 21 parcels of land.

1991. . .

The Chapter purchases parcels of 67 and 16 acres on CHAPMAN POND, bringing Conservancy holdings at this site to 429 acres. To help fund these acquisitions, Gateway Commission pledges a \$50,000 challenge grant.

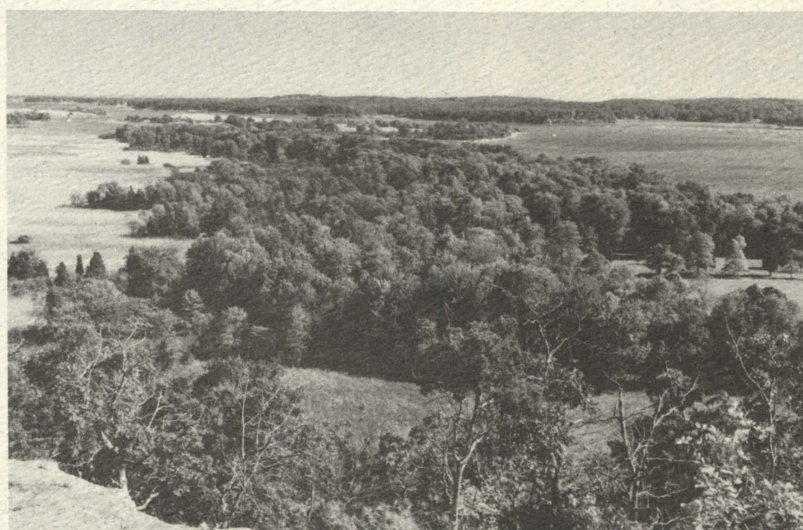
George Hatfield grants a 40-acre conservation easement adjacent to BURNHAM BROOK Preserve in East Haddam.

The town of Glastonbury will enter into a management agreement with the Chapter to manage the 27-acre tract at GREAT POND in Glastonbury which the town owns in fee, and the 48-acre Balf Company tract on which the town will hold a term of conservation easement.

Senator Joseph Lieberman introduces legislation in Congress to authorize the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to identify critical fish and wildlife habitat along the river, and to establish the SILVIO CONTE FISH AND WILDLIFE REFUGE, after the late U.S. Rep. Silvio Conte (R-Mass.), who originally introduced legislation for this preserve.

The Chapter also received valuable tradelands as gifts, funds from which were credited to the Connecticut River Protection Program. 🍀

— JOHN MATTHIESSEN



Tom Beers

▲ Above: Jane and Endicott Davison of Lyme deeded four separate parcels of marshland on Lord Cove to the Connecticut Chapter at the end of 1990.

Right: One of the Connecticut River campaign's first acquisitions was 55 acres on Selden Creek in late 1986.



The Natural Heritage Registry Program

During the Connecticut River Protection Program, the Chapter also added 910 acres of land in the Connecticut River region to the Natural Heritage Registry Program. Under this program, landowners voluntarily agree to protect their property from any activity that might be detrimental to the natural qualities of the land.

CHAPMAN POND – East Haddam

Anita Ballek
Bob Ballek
Steve Gephard
Howard Metzger

CHESTER CREEK – Chester

Town of Chester
Karl Thonnes

CONGAMOND LAKE BOG – Suffield

Mountain Laurel Realty

DEAD MAN'S SWAMP – Cromwell

Harold Byloff
Michael Cannata
Cromwell Fish and Game Club
Ron Marchinkoski
Lee Waters

ENFIELD RAPIDS – Enfield/Suffield

June and Francis Albert
Mike and Cathy Axel
Eugene and Victoria Markowski
Joann Pawelcik
Donald and Carol Rollet
Richard Scully

HIGBY MOUNTAIN –

Middletown/Middlefield

Joseph Courtright
Bob Merriam

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

Wish List

There are many ways to contribute to the protection of Connecticut's natural areas. Among the items we need is a light table for viewing slides and tracing maps. If you can donate one, please call the Chapter office at (203)344-0716.

Caring for Protected Lands — and Beyond

STEWARDSHIP EFFORTS of Chapter preserves in the Connecticut River watershed received extra attention and funding during the Connecticut River Protection Program, including \$488,565 the Chapter put into a permanent stewardship fund.

An important part of this work is the perennial battle against exotic plant species, such as the tall, tufted reed phragmites, which dominates many coastal areas. Battling these hardy plants, to which the Chapter dedicates considerable staff and volunteer effort, is beneficial not just to the Chapter's preserves but to the entire coastal ecosystem.

Funds from organizations such as the Pequot Community Foundation, Inc. and the Rodney Johnson Fund helped the Chapter manage its preserves. For example, one of our most important preserves on the river is Griswold Point in Old Lyme, a mile-long undeveloped coastal barrier beach at the very mouth of the river. Funding from the campaign allowed us to erect a seasonal fence to protect the nesting area of two struggling species of shorebird, the piping plover and the least tern.

The Chapter's stewardship work relies heavily on the help of volunteers. These generous, energetic and talented people implement many of the projects funded by the Connecticut River Protection Program.



— JOHN MATTHIESSEN

"To preserve the Connecticut is to preserve a small, choice fragment of what our forefathers knew as New England—part of the original America."

—ROGER TORY PETERSON

Meanwhile, Upriver. . .

THE CONNECTICUT RIVER CAMPAIGN was a four-state effort. The Connecticut Chapter's sister offices upstream made significant achievements during the campaign.

MASSACHUSETTS

The Massachusetts Field Office recently received an anonymous grant to conduct a three-year inventory of natural communities and species on the Connecticut River and the Deerfield River, a major tributary of the Connecticut. This grant will also provide for future land acquisition. The Massachusetts Office has protected six parcels of land on the river for a total of 314 acres.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

In April 1990, the New Hampshire Chapter received the 90-acre donation of Fourth Connecticut Lake and its watershed from Connecticut-based Champion International Corporation. Located in Pittsburg, N.H. on the Canadian border, Fourth Connecticut is the smallest of the four lakes that are the source of the river. This acquisition was the northernmost acquisition in the campaign.

Fourth Connecticut Lake is surrounded by dense spruce and fir forest. Its high

acidity and low temperature cause organic matter to decompose slowly, resulting in an abundance of bog and marshland around the lake. The lake and surrounding land are home to a variety of plantlife, including carnivorous plants, such as pitcher plants, sundew and bladderwort.

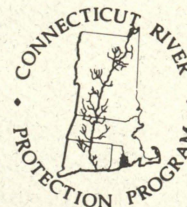
In 1988, the New Hampshire Chapter also facilitated the state acquisition of 40,000 acres on Nash Stream, the largest single protection project in the campaign.

VERMONT FIELD OFFICE

Among the Vermont Field Office's important acquisitions in the campaign was a 145-acre gift of riverside floodplain habitat added in July 1990, the gift of Ruth Shumway, a farmer in Hartland, Vt. The property is dominated by silver maples, some more than two feet in diameter.

The protection of significant floodplain forests is one of the campaign's major goals. Floodplain forests are of particular interest along the river because the seed source of a forest is often another forest upstream, so it is necessary to preserve more than one tract in order to protect this fragmented community. Most of the floodplain forests along the Connecticut were cut decades ago to create farmland. 🌿

— JOHN MATTHIESSEN



(REGISTRY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

GLASTONBURY HIGHLANDS —

Glastonbury

Adele Jurgelas
Gerhard and Duffy Schade
Betty and Don Somers
Herb and Peg Suessenbach
Joan and Emil Tiboni

LORD COVE — Lyme

Samuel Metcalfe

PRATT AND POST COVES — Deep River

Deep River Historical Society
Deep River Marina, Inc.
Edward and Joanne Godfrey
Rush Hamilton
William and Vera Martin
Warren and Kathryn Shuck
Town of Deep River

RAGGED ROCK CREEK — Old Saybrook

Town of Old Saybrook
Gifford Warner

ROCKY HILL MEADOWS — Rocky Hill

Ruth Willard

SELDEN CREEK — Lyme

Charles Marburg & Louisa White

SHAKER POND — Enfield

Northeast Utilities

SOUTH WINDSOR MEADOWS —

South Windsor

Robert Brown
Doris Burgdorf
Hartford Audubon Society
June Paul
Arthur Spielman
George Treadwell
Joseph Vibert
Elsie Woolam

WHALEBONE CREEK — Lyme

David Erhart



Left: A floodplain forest, one of the ecosystems targeted for protection by the Connecticut River Protection Program.

Scientific Work Thrives on the Connecticut River

THE CONNECTICUT RIVER PROTECTION PROGRAM triggered an unprecedented amount of scientific work targeting this biologically rich waterway.

The Program helped fund the Connecticut River Biological Inventory, which identifies and assesses ecologically significant habitats and species within the Connecticut River ecosystem. This two-year inventory program focused its first year on the southern half of the river and the second year on the northern half. In addition to studies of insect life and river biology, the team also conducted inventory work on reptile and bird populations. More than 35 locations containing state species of special concern were identified along the southern part of the watershed.

The biological inventory made a very real impact, and not just for The Nature Conservancy. The information collected by the inventory scientists is added to the state Department of Environmental Protection's Natural Diversity Data Base. This is an invaluable source of information to state and local land use planning groups and to other environmental organizations in setting conservation priorities. Funds from the Connecticut River Protection Program also helped staff the Data Base.

As this research progresses, it becomes more and more apparent that the lower Connecticut River is a unique and irreplaceable habitat. Long-term protection programs of this biologically rich section of the river, with its intense commercial and recreational use, are therefore increasingly important. The Connecticut Chapter will

continue to devote attention to this exceptional ecosystem in the years ahead.

In 1990, the Chapter initiated the Conservation Biology Research Program, which is designed to promote basic research on rare and endangered species, habitats, and ecosystems, and to advance the conservation of biological diversity in the state. The program funds a minimal salary and expenses for researchers, and is awarded annually.

Also in 1990, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service launched a congressionally-mandated inventory of the fish and wildlife resources and coastal region habitats of southern New England, including Long Island Sound and the lower Connecticut River. The Natural Diversity Data Base provides information on critical coastal habitat and the locations of rare and endangered species. The Conservancy's Dr. Juliana Barrett also contributed information to this study.

The Chapter helped fund research that made one of the most exciting discoveries on the river, the puritan tiger beetle, (*Cicindela puritana*). This globally rare beetle was discovered in Connecticut by Dr. Phil Nothnagle, a Vermont biologist working with the Conservancy under a small grant from the Massachusetts Heritage Program and the Connecticut Chapter.

Funds from the Connecticut River Protection Program also fund the Chapter's new biological monitoring and management specialist position, now held by former Director of Science and Stewardship Beth Lapin. 🍀

— JOHN MATTHIESSEN

CONNECTICUT RIVER PROTECTION PROGRAM SOURCES OF FUNDS

Individual Gifts	\$ 1,031,953.
Tradelands	\$ 63,553.
Foundations/Trusts	\$ 762,662.
Corporations	\$ 144,825.
Organizations	\$ 122,922.
Individual Planned Gifts (Cash)	\$ 927,540.
Interest Earned	\$ 148,307.
Transfers from Other Projects	\$ 39,191.
.....	
Total Cash and Pledges	\$ 3,240,953.
Government Income (Primarily from appropriations under the State of CT Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program)	\$ 2,695,870.
Planned Gifts Outstanding\$	793,225.
.....	
TOTAL FUNDS RAISED	\$ 6,730,048.

CONNECTICUT RIVER PROTECTION PROGRAM USES OF FUNDS

Science Goal:	\$ 90,000.
Result	\$ 104,820.
Stewardship Goal:	\$ 520,000.
Result:	\$ 488,565.
Land Preservation Fund Goal:	\$ 740,000.
Result:	\$ 574,676.
Land Acquisition Goal:	\$ 2,375,000.
Result:	\$ 4,295,855.
Program Administration Goal:	\$ 275,000.
Result:	\$ 264,600.
As Yet Unallocated Goal:	\$ 0.
Result:	\$ 208,307.
.....	
TOTAL Goal:	\$ 4,000,000.
Result:	\$ 5,936,823.

CONNECTICUT RIVER PROTECTION PROGRAM SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTIONS

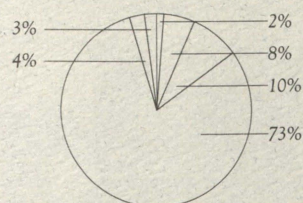
Number of Gifts	In the Range of	Total Amount/ Range
1	\$500,000 and up	\$ 512,585.
7	\$100,000-499,999	\$ 1,099,358.
4	\$50,000-99,999	\$ 269,564.
10	\$25,000-49,999	\$ 379,546.
26	\$10,000-24,999	\$ 436,260.
20	\$5,000-9,999	\$ 133,487.
90	\$1,000-4,999	\$ 163,344.
42	\$500-999	\$ 22,681.
183	\$100-499	\$ 29,480.
217	under \$100	\$ 7,150.

Total:
600 \$ 3,053,455.

Interest earned on gifts: \$ 148,307.

Transfer of income
from other projects: \$ 39,191.

TOTAL \$ 3,240,953.



2% Science
8% Stewardship
10% Land Preservation Fund
73% Land Acquisition
4% Program Administration
3% As Yet Unallocated

\$50,000 and more

Anonymous
Dr. & Mrs. Richard H. Goodwin
Jesse Adkins Estate
Bernard & Audrey Aronson
Charitable Trust
Connecticut River Gateway
Commission
Dudley Seymour Trust
Rebecca Kiernan Estate
Louise H. & David S. Ingalls
Foundation, Inc.
Frances Townley Estate

\$25,000 to \$49,999

Anonymous
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Archibald
Caruso Trust
Lois Croft
First Constitution Bank
Merck Family Fund
Mr. & Mrs. David Sargent
Sasco Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. S. Bruce Smart, Jr.

\$10,000 to \$24,999

Anonymous
Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Maxwell Belding
Mrs. F. Henry Berlin
Mr. & Mrs. Simon Bessie
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Brittain
Carolyn Foundation
Connecticut River Trust
Conservation & Research Foundation
John Brown Cook
James Cooper Estate
Lois Darling Estate
Dexter Corporation
Claire Dudley
Evan Griswold
Dorothy Hooker
Kevin & Roxanne Coady Foundation
Donald & Dorothy McCluskey
Newman's Own
Jean Rowley Estate
Robert Schutz
Spencer T. & Ann W. Olin
Foundation
E. Weizenhoffer Estate

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Anonymous
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Clark
Louise Cooper
Fleda Dean
East Haddam Land Trust Inc.
Dr. John Edsall
Elmina B. Sewall Foundation
Joel Freedman
Garden Homes Management Corp.
Alexander Gardner
George & Grace Long
Foundation Trust
John Kent
Margaret Kilgore
Lyme Conservation Trust
Maguire Foundation

Jane Olsen
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Richards
Mr. & Mrs. John Sargent
Schiro Fund Inc.
Georgia Thomson

\$1,000 to \$4,999

Mary Ackerly
Alfred Andrews
James Andrews Estate
Helen Ascher Estate
Robert Benet
Bernard & Alva Gimbel
Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. John Blum
Richard Booth
Samuel Bowman
Sandra Boynton
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Brundage
Dexter Chafee
Paul Chester
Charles Teaze Clark
Mr. & Mrs. Logan Clarke
Lucy Conant
G. Whitfield Cook
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Cooper
Frederick Crosby
Mr. & Mrs. William Curran
Mr. & Mrs. R. Dennis Cutler
Mr. & Mrs. Victor Darnell
Mr. & Mrs. Endicott Davison
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Deutsch
Elizabeth DuBois
William Eddison
William Ellis
John Forsgren, Jr.
Douglas Fraser
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Gagarin
Mr. & Mrs. Fritz Gahagan
Mr. & Mrs. Reynolds Girdler
Suzanne Gordon
Wilder Greeley
Mr. & Mrs. J. Marshall Hamilton
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Hamilton, Jr.
Mrs. Christy Hanas
Mr. & Mrs. Leo Harris
Shelton Hicock
Hill & Dale Garden Club
Dr. & Mrs. Theodore Hillhouse
Alice Holcombe Estate
Hortulus Garden Club
Interdesign
Patricia Jaeger
Mr. Frederick Jeffrey
Richard Kehoe
Brooks Kelley
Wilson Kistler, Jr.
Robert Kleinberg
K. Knowlton
Mr. Robert Kriebel
Lampport Foundation
Elise Smith Lapham
Mr. & Mrs. William Lidgerwood
Margaret N. Forsythe
Charitable Trust
John Mayer
Roderick McNeil
Mrs. Eugene Moore
Carl Muschenheim

Naturalists Club
Lissie Newman
Parkson Foundation
S. Patrick
Louise Peck
Potapug Audubon Society Inc.
R & CB Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. H. William Reed
Janet Reynolds
Louise Nash Robbins
Jane Fitch Roland
Robert Schumann
Susan Schumann-Skehan
S. Spencer Scott, Jr.
Seeley Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Nat Sestero
Mr. & Mrs. John Sias
The Stanley Works
Ruth Thompson
Wade F. B. Thompson
Mary Walton
Mr. & Mrs. Dana Waring
Mr. & Mrs. Eric West
Mr. & Mrs. George Willauer
Ann Williams
E. Williams
Mrs. Harper Woodward
Samuel Zahl

The above is a list of all donors of \$1,000 or more to the Connecticut Protection Program. We have made every effort to make this list of benefactors accurate, but if we have failed to list your name or have listed you incorrectly, we would be grateful to hear from you. The Connecticut Chapter also wishes to thank its many other members whose dues and other contributions towards the Chapter's work helped to assure the success of the Connecticut River Protection Program.

The following donors made planned gifts towards the Connecticut River Protection Program. For more information on planned giving, please contact Tom McGuigan at the Connecticut Chapter.

Nancy Fales
L. Sidney Garvais
Mr. & Mrs. David Sargent
Florence Schumann
Mr. & Mrs. A. Clayton Scribner
Jane Williams

The following people contributed to the Connecticut River Protection Program through important tradeland gifts, which are donations of land that does not contain vital habitat, which TNC can then sell and use the proceeds towards conservation.

Frieda Clayton
Estate of Muriel Campbell Douglass
Gail Ripley

A Day at the Lake with the Connecticut Chapter



▲ Above: Veedor introduces himself.

Below: Town Grove, site of the Connecticut Chapter's Annual Meeting.



▶ Right: Veedor struts for his admirers.

It was a memorable day of canoeing, hiking, and bird watching—including one bird with a nine-foot wing-span and a taste for carrion.

The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter held its 1991 annual meeting and celebrated its 31st anniversary

on October 5 at Town Grove, a recreational area on the shore of tranquil Lake Wononscopomuc, at the base of the Berkshire Hills. Guests included Timothy Keeney, the state Commissioner of Environmental Protection, and John McNeely, whose Andean condor, Veedor (a Quechua word meaning “overseer”) gave a breathtaking flight demonstration, displaying his nine-foot wingspan.



THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The Connecticut Chapter completed 14 land protection projects totalling 251.5 acres in the past year through purchase and donations of fee ownership and easements. Of these 14 projects, 11 were of high ecological significance protecting rare species and critical habitats. The remaining three were important open space that protected valuable natural resources.

While the Chapter only spent \$211,000 to protect these 251.5 acres, the fair market value of this land is estimated at \$1,192,700. The Chapter was able to accomplish this by receiving donations of lands valued at more than \$915,400, and by negotiating the purchase of properties at amounts less than fair market value, saving more than \$45,000.

Several new preserves were established this year, including an 11-acre preserve at Chester Creek in Chester. Donated land included 11.58 acres and an adjacent 1.02-acre easement at Enfield Rapids in Suffield from Mascor Builders; 46.5 acres in Hamburg Cove in Lyme from John Bross; 9.5 acres of valuable open space from the Speers family in Bloomfield; and an easement protecting 17 acres in Salisbury donated by Dr. Mary Alice White.

The Chapter also added to several existing preserves this year. These included the gift of a 40.7-acre easement at Burnham Brook in East Haddam from

George W. Hatfield; the gift of 28.25 acres from Jane and Endicott Davison at Lord Cove in Lyme; and the sale to the Chapter at less than fair market value of two tracts totaling 83 acres at Chapman Pond in East Haddam by Bob and Anita Ballek, in addition to a gift of .81 acres from Louis Van de Velde at the same site.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Four new trustees were elected to the Chapter board: Daniel Putnam Brown, Jr. of West Granby; Raymond D'Argenio of West Hartford; Anthony P. Grassi of Wilton; and Dr. Mary Alice White of Salisbury. Three trustees were re-elected: Dr. Peter Rich of Storrs, for a one year term; Evan S. Griswold of Old Lyme for a three year term; and E. Ogden Tanner of New Canaan for a three year term.

At the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, the following trustees were elected as officers of the Chapter for one-year terms:

CHAIRMAN: Robert M. Schneider, Lyme

VICE CHAIRMEN: Austin D. Barney II,
West Simsbury
Rufus Barringer, Lyme
Dr. Sarah Richards,
Guilford

TREASURER: A. Eugene Billings, Norfolk

SECRETARY: Randolph K. Byers, Wilton

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Eugene Billings presented the 1990-91 financial report for the fiscal year ending June 1991. Total cash balance in accounts managed by the Connecticut Chapter equalled \$5,762,359, of which \$624,881 are unrestricted. The balance, or \$5,137,478, is in various restricted accounts including land protection projects, the Chapter's revolving Land Preservation Fund, stewardship endowments, and ongoing Chapter Programs such as the Land Trust Service Bureau and the Connecticut River Program.

Outstanding financial obligations as of August 1991 total \$631,684 for lands under contract and for property closings. To date, \$388,499 have been raised against this amount and another \$177,400 have been received from the State of Connecticut on a matching basis under the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program. All of this leaves a total of \$68,785 still to be raised, not counting the more than \$2,600,000 in land options the Connecticut Chapter is currently negotiating for purchase.

Connecticut Chapter membership totals more than 14,300 households, of which 1,150 are Acorns. Any member interested in reviewing these accounts should contact the Connecticut Field Office.



Far left: John McNeely holds Veedor.
Left: Nature Conservancy staff (from left)
Beth Lapin, David Gumbart, Xandy Wilson,
a Chapter member, and Claudia Polsky.

Guides Available to Devil's Den and Weir Preserves

Pocket guides to the Devil's Den Preserve in Weston and the Weir Preserve in Wilton are now available to members.

The guide to the Devil's Den Preserve includes a map of the preserve and its 21 miles of trails, as well as a short history of the preserve and guidelines for its use.

The Devil's Den Preserve is the largest nature preserve in southwestern Connecticut, comprising 1660 acres of woodlands, wetlands, mature forests and rocky knolls with wide open vistas. The preserve, which is located on land donated by pioneering conservationist Katharine Ordway, features mixed hardwoods dominated by oaks, hickories, tulip trees and yellow birches.

The guide to the 110-acre Weir Preserve includes a map of the preserve and its 3.5 miles of trails, a history and description of the preserve, and a list of the wide variety of plants there.

The Weir Preserve is named for J. Alden Weir, the noted American impressionist artist. Land gifts from the Weir family and other families combined to create a natural preserve area of 110 acres. Its hillsides feature dense mountain laurel and bold outcrops that overlook swampland along the course of the Comstock Brook. A walk through the Weir Preserve will take visitors over ledges, past cascading water, along a wetland, through mountain laurel, and across open fields. Adjacent to the Weir Preserve is the 63-acre Weir Farm National Historic Site, the former home and workplace of J. Alden Weir, and Connecticut's first National Park.

Members can obtain a copy of these informative guides at the preserves or from the Connecticut Chapter office.

AWARDS

Every year the Chapter recognizes those volunteers who have made outstanding contributions to Chapter activities with the presentation of the White Oak Award. This year's recipients were:

PETER H. BORGEMEISTER of Branford for his presentations of the Chapter's slide show on the Connecticut River to a variety of clubs and organizations throughout the state.

ANGELO FRANK of New Haven for his work as a preserve steward, particularly his efforts to protect the habitats of piping plovers and wintering bald eagles and to control exotic plant species.

STEPHEN R. GEPHARD of East Haddam for his work as a preserve steward at Chapman Pond and the lower Connecticut River and as an articulate spokesman for The Nature Conservancy.

BETSY KATZ of Glastonbury for her work as volunteer coordinator of special events and trips.

LESLIE STARR of Haddam for her work on the Chapter's protection programs and land trust outreach efforts.

Certificates of Special Recognition are awarded every year to organizations and individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the preservation of natural areas and biological diversity in Connecticut. This year's recipients were:

THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION, for its commitment to the identification and protection of biological diversity and for donating trees for the protection of bald eagle winter roost sites at Enfield Rapids.

CONNHOPE, for organizing high school students throughout the state in activities including advocacy, education and stewardship to protect Connecticut's open spaces and environment.

THE HOUSATONIC AUDUBON SOCIETY, for helping protect critical natural areas including Sages Ravine, Thompson Pond, and Benton Hill Fen. 🌿

—JOHN MATTHIESSEN



Above left: Recipients of the Chapter's 1991 awards, from left: Peter H. Borgemeister; ConnHOPE President Kati Larson; Angelo Frank; Connecticut Chapter Director Leslie N. Corey, Jr.; Housatonic Audubon Society President Jane Rossman; Leslie Starr; Betsy Katz; Stephen R. Gephart; and Metropolitan District Commission Natural Resources Administrator Leland "Bud" Sanders. Right: Tranquil Lake Wononscopomuc.

From The Land 🌿

Published quarterly for the members of the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy

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Contributing Writers: Connecticut Chapter Staff

IF YOU HAVE EVER ENJOYED A VISIT TO A NATURE CONSERVANCY PRESERVE, you'll want to hear about Howard Pierpont of Stratford. A tall fellow with a happy manner and charming wit, Howard spends much of his time stewarding delicate preserves, spreading wood chips on trails, patrolling bird nesting areas and surveying trails. . . mile upon mile.

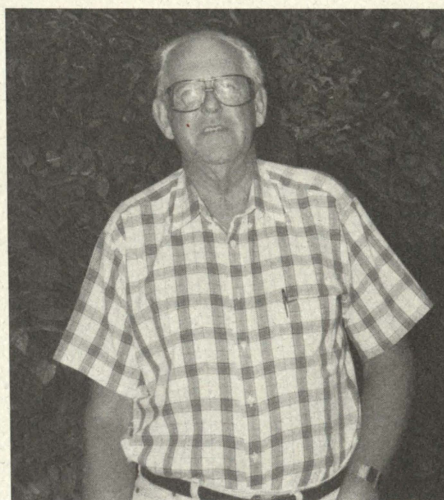
Howard volunteers as a TNC monitor, which means it's his job to watch over easement properties—land preserved by an easement written into the deed—making sure the land is properly maintained and no deed restrictions are violated.

Howard is a true environmentalist who works outdoors in all four seasons. In early spring, he braves March winds to work with staff from TNC and the state DEP, scanning coastal areas at Long Beach, Short Beach and Pleasure Beach in Stratford, and seeking critical potential nesting areas of piping plovers and least terns.

In early April, Howard monitors the condition of the beaches before the birds arrive. He then erects four quarter-mile sections of fencing to guide spring and summer visitors away from the nesting areas and young birds.

When summer arrives, Howard patrols these sensitive areas to provide the young birds a safe start.

In winter, on many a cold weekend, Howard takes on three or four assignments



Dorothy Millen

assisting visitors at the Eagle Observation Station at Shepaug Dam.

Howard is diversified in his conservation work, and does a variety of tasks. For example, Howard helped with a trail map guiding hikers through the 1,660 acre Devil's Den Preserve in Weston (see p. 10). Howard pushed a surveyor's indicator—a wheeled measuring device—over more than 20 miles of trail to measure distances for this guide.

Howard has been a Connecticut Chapter member for more than 10 years. Thanks, Howard, and keep up the good work managing and monitoring these natural treasures. You are truly an important part of preserving our natural heritage. 🌿

— DOROTHY MILLEN

Please Join Us!

- ☐ Yes, I'd like to become The Nature Conservancy's newest member in Connecticut.

___ \$100 (Acorn)* ___ \$50 ___ \$25 ___ \$15

- ☐ I'm already a member, but would like to join the ranks of Connecticut Acorns*.

___ \$100 ___ \$200 ___ \$300 ___ \$400 ___ \$500

* Acorns are Conservancy members who contribute at least \$100 annually to Chapter operations. Connecticut Acorns are exempt from national membership dues notices, are invited on Acorn trips, and receive early notices for special events.

Please make checks payable to The Nature Conservancy and mail to 55 High Street, Middletown, CT 06457-3788. Thank you.

Dec. 1 (Sunday)
Wild Dogs of Africa
on "Nature,"
broadcast on public television.
The Nature Conservancy supplies
editorial assistance for this series.

Dec. 8 (Sunday)
Great Moments with Nature's
Filmmakers on "Nature,"
broadcast on public television.
The Nature Conservancy supplies
editorial assistance for this series.

Dec. 8 (Sunday)
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Winter Trees at the
Katharine Ordway Preserve.
Join Fred Moore for a winter stroll.

Dec. 15 (Sunday)
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Family Natural History Walk
at Devil's Den.
Leader: Annette Lusardi.

Jan. 18 (Saturday)
10 a.m. to noon.
Family Natural History Walk
at Devil's Den.
Leader: Annette Lusardi.

For further information regarding
Devil's Den events, please contact
Steve Patton or Lise Hanners at
the preserve: (203) 226-4991.

For information regarding any new
chapter events, please contact
Dorothy Millen at the Connecticut
Field Office: (203) 344-0716.

The Nature Conservancy At Work

	Worldwide	Connecticut
Total Projects	12,776	605
	(includes registry)	(not including registry)
Total Acres Protected	5,122,180	18,744
Total Acres Registered	450,820	4,985
Total Acres Saved	5,573,000	23,729
Members	591,129	14,300
Corporate Associates	594	12

The Nature Conservancy

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Unique Colonial House Comes to Conservancy

IN 1988, DESIRE PARKER donated to The Nature Conservancy 234 magnificent acres on Poquetanuck Cove in Ledyard. A person of modest means, Miss Parker entrusted to the Conservancy her most precious and valuable asset.

A year ago Miss Parker died after a lengthy illness. This extraordinary woman arranged to have her house and the remaining 6.87 acres given to The Nature Conservancy with the intent that the property then be sold to endow the existing Poquetanuck Preserve. The final distribution by the court is expected shortly.

The center-chimney colonial, known as the Nathan Avery House, was built in 1792. The two-story, 30-by-40, wood-framed house has a full attic and a basement. Although the outside of the house is in good condition, the inside renovations were never completed.

The Nathan Avery house is ideal for an owner who loves old houses, has the time and money to make renovations, wants to



live in the middle of a nature preserve, is willing to struggle with green briar, and has a vision that includes a handsome corncrib, old stone walls, and a substantial stone barn foundation—all accessed by a long dirt driveway.

When sold, the deed will restrict the property to residential use and no further subdivision. 🌿

— CAROLIE EVANS

From the Land

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